

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 32-39 are pending in this application. Claims 32-33 and 35-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent 4,241,339 to Ushiyama. Claim 34 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Ushiyama as applied to claims 32-39.

Addressing now the above-noted rejections based on Ushiyama, those rejections are traversed by the present response.

Independent claim 1 recites:

alignment layers sandwiching said second liquid crystal layer, said alignment layers including regions displaying a fixed image, with orientations of adjacent of said regions being different. [Emphasis added.]

Attached to the present response is an Appendix that was also provided with a previous response to help clarify the distinction between the claimed invention and the teaching in Ushiyama. As shown for example in the attached Appendix, in the claimed invention alignment layers sandwiching a second liquid crystal layer have adjacent regions with different orientations. Such features are not disclosed in Ushiyama as in Ushiyama the layers have an orientation in a same single direction.

The basis for the outstanding rejection is improper as it first does not even disclose alignment layers ***sandwiching*** the second liquid crystal layer.

The outstanding rejection relies upon Ushiyama to disclose in Figures 3 and 4 a first liquid crystal layer 28 and a second liquid crystal layer 27. The outstanding rejection then relies on liquid crystal layer 24 and liquid crystal layers 25/26 to meet the limitations of the claimed “alignment layers”. However, it clearly cannot be possible for such liquid crystal layers 24 and 25/26 in Ushiyama to meet the limitations of the claimed “alignment layers”.

Independent claim 32 recites “alignment layers *sandwiching* said second liquid crystal layer” (emphasis added). Ushiyama does not disclose the liquid crystal layer 24 (relied on for the claimed “alignment layers”) sandwiching the liquid crystal layer 27 (relied on for the claimed “second liquid crystal layer”); nor is it even possible for Ushiyama to have such a structure. In Ushiyama the liquid crystal layer 24 is a part of the noted second liquid crystal layer 27, and clearly thereby that liquid crystal layer 24 cannot play any role in *sandwiching* that noted second liquid crystal layer 27.

In such ways, Ushiyama simply does not teach or suggest the claimed “alignment layers”.

Moreover, applicants note that in claim 32 the alignment layers include a plurality of regions, operations of adjacent regions of the alignment layers being different, while in the basis for the outstanding rejection only the different liquid crystal layers are noted as adjacent and having different regions in Ushiyama. Such liquid crystal layers do not have adjacent regions with different orientation, and thus such liquid crystal layers cannot correspond to the claimed alignment layers.

In such ways independent claim 32, and claims 33-39 dependent therefrom, clearly distinguish over the applied teachings in Ushiyama.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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